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1. According to a decision of the Soviet General Staff taken on 25 February 1952, the Czechoslovak Army is to complete the formation and equipment of 25 divisions during the year beginning 1 November 1952 and ending 31 October 1953.
2. Officers of the Czechoslovak General Staff declared, during the July-September 1952 maneuvers, that 11 Czechoslovak divisions were ready at the beginning of July 1952 and two to five divisions will be completed before the end of the year. Soviet General Staff officers who came to Prague during Marshal Konev's visit insisted that the number of divisions formed by the end of 1952 must be seven. The other six divisions could be organized during 1953.
3. Generals Vaclav Kratochvil and Vaclav Thor considered these requirements impossible to fulfill as long as conscripts belonging to the class of workers destined for heavy industry are exempted from military service. As Jaroslav Havelka insisted on industry's priority, Kratochvil began with the formation of mixed brigades as cadres for the new divisions, and ordered General Frantisek Vesely to organize such formations.
4. In Czech officer circles it is considered that this procedure will not be satisfactory to the Soviet Military Mission, and may even be regarded with suspicion. Kratochvil also asked that conscripts coming from agriculture should not be exempted from military service under any pretext, and their numbers should be drawn on for 1953 to the fullest extent. This request was not looked upon with favor by the government, and the matter is still under discussion between Zapotocky and Augustin Kliment. If the government does not yield, Kratochvil will have to form cadres of the new divisions at least.
5. Whatever happens, the Czechoslovak Army will have a paper strength of 25 divisions in 1953, but it is probable that its effective war strength will not be much more than half of this.

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